

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

contact: Marcia McBrien | (517) 373-0129

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTITUTION DAY WEBCAST WITH MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT CHIEF JUSTICE MARILYN KELLY IS RESOURCE FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS; WEBCAST AND CURRICULUM MATERIALS AVAILABLE TO TEACHERS

Lansing, MI, September 14, 2009 – Elementary school students and teachers looking for ways to observe Constitution Day have a resource in a new webcast that features [Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly](#) of the [Michigan Supreme Court](#).

Federal law requires that all schools teach about the U.S. Constitution on or near September 17, the date it was signed in 1787. The chief justice, a former teacher, said she was concerned that elementary students learn about the Constitution in a meaningful way.

“It’s easier to teach the Constitution to older students because there are more materials and resources for middle school and up,” said Kelly. “We wanted to provide a learning opportunity for younger students that’s both substantive and accessible to them.”

In the webcast, Kelly reads *The U.S. Constitution* by Norman Pearl to a group of third-through fifth-grade students. Kelly and the students discuss basic constitutional principles, such as the separation of powers. Kelly also addresses students’ questions about why the U.S. Constitution is important to children today.

The webcast is a year-round educational resource, Kelly emphasized. “Even though September 17 is the official celebration, the Constitution is so important to all Americans that every day is Constitution Day,” she said. “This webcast can be used as the basis for classroom discussions at any time.”

To view the webcast, 1) go to <http://courts.michigan.gov/plc/>; 2) click on "New! Constitution Day webcast"; and 3) scroll down to "Constitution Day with Chief Justice Marilyn Kelly and Elementary Students" under "Miscellaneous." Presentation and curriculum materials are available with the webcast.

Students of all ages, from kindergarten to law school, will participate in additional Constitution Day activities on September 17 in the Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center, located on the first floor of the [Michigan Hall of Justice](#). Activities include tours of the Learning Center and Hall of Justice, as well as a constitutional rights scavenger hunt and discussions led by members of the judiciary. Free curriculum materials are available for teachers.

The Hall of Justice is located at the corner of Allegan Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard, three blocks west of the State Capitol. Visitor parking is available off Allegan Street. To schedule a tour, or for more information, contact Rachael Drenovsky at drenovskyr@courts.mi.gov or 517-373-5027. Additional information is available at <http://www.courts.mi.gov/plc/>.

--MSC--